

REPORT COVER SHEET VIA TELETYPE		SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM	REPORT NO. EGB-21590
FROM CHIEF OF BASE, BERLIN		DATE OF REPORT 27 FEBRUARY 1963	
REPORTING OFFICER [ ]		RD. NO.	
REPORTS OFFICER [ ]		PROJ. CALL	
APPROVING OFFICER [ ]		S'CE CR. CAMLET	
BACKGROUND DATA AND COMMENTS:  <p>[ ] MET CAMLET BY CHANCE ON 23 FEBRUARY AND THE LATTER VOLUNTEERED THIS INFORMATION. THE REPORT IS NOT BEING DISSEMINATED IN BERLIN. IT SHOULD SHOW GERMANY, COLOGNE, AS PLACE ACQUIRED IF DISSEMINATED TO THE EMBASSY IN BONN. THE REPORT MAY NOT BE GIVEN TO LIAISON SERVICES.</p>			
TOT - 27 FEB 63/0800 TOR - 27 FEB 63XXXXXX			
OPTIONAL: ENTRIES BELOW NEED NOT BE FILLED IN IF DUPLICATED IN ACCOMPANYING REPORT			
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COUNTRY	NO. OF ENCLOSURES		NO. PAGES
SUBJECT	REFERENCES		
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DATE 2007

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**WEST GERMANY**

**OPINIONS OF HERBERT WEHNER ON  
WEST BERLIN ELECTION**

**ABOUT 23 FEBRUARY 1963**

**GERMANY, BERLIN/23 FEB 63**

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**SPD FUNCTIONARY /F/ FAVORABLE TO WEHNER'S VIEWPOINT**

1. RECENT BERLIN ELECTION RESULTS HAVE WIDENED THE SPLIT BETWEEN MAYOR WILLY BRANDT AND HERBERT WEHNER. THE OVERWHELMING VOTE FOR THE SPD IN BERLIN IS INTERPRETED BY WEHNER AS A DEMONSTRATION THAT THE SPD CAN WIN ELECTIONS WITHOUT BRANDT. WEHNER IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE SPD IN BERLIN WOULD HAVE RECEIVED ALMOST 60 PERCENT OF THE VOTE EVEN IF BRANDT HAD NOT PARTICIPATED. WEHNER ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE SPD COULD WIN A BUNDESTAG ELECTION IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WITHOUT BRANDT.

2. IN ADDITION, WEHNER HAS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT BRANDT DEFINITELY 'FAILED THE TEST' WHEN HE CALLED OFF THE VISIT TO KHRUSHCHEV AFTER AMREHN THREATENED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE BERLIN

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2.

COALITION. WEHNER REASONS THAT, IF BRANDT WAS REALLY CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY OF THE MEETING, HE SHOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH IT. ALSO, ACCORDING TO WEHNER, IF IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE A COALITION WITH THE CDU IN BERLIN, THEN BRANDT SHOULD LOGICALLY ACCEPT THE CDU IN THE NEW BERLIN GOVERNMENT DESPITE THE LARGE SPD ELECTION VICTORY.

3. FIELD COMMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF RENEWED SKIRMISHING BETWEEN WEHNER AND BRANDT IN THE PRESS, BUT THE THEORY THAT BRANDT'S PERSONAL POPULARITY WAS NOT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE SPD BERLIN VICTORY HAS NOT BEEN NOTED. SOURCE IS OF THE IMPRESSION THAT WEHNER CLEARLY FAVORS A COALITION WITH THE CDU IN WEST BERLIN AS A MODEL FOR A FUTURE 'GRAND COALITION' IN WEST GERMANY./

4. FIELD DISTRIBUTION. NONE.

END

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